

Jan. 15 1944

Dr. J. B. Martin
412 E. 47th St.
Chicago Ill.

Dear Friend:

I have been trying to find time to write you ever since the meeting in New York, and decided to take time today no matter what else suffered. I have talked to Abe about coming back to Chicago to talk to you in person instead of writing. He thought it would be a good thing to do. That will give you a little idea how important we both feel you are to the future of Negro Baseball. There is no doubt in both of our minds, that you are the one person who not only could help this big Negro business but also would have the desire to do it. Most of the other people who could help seem to be motivated by selfish desires. This is an awfully big load to be putting on your shoulders, but for some reason I feel you can carry it. If you can't Negro Baseball will be a tough way to go.

I am enclosing you a clipping from Smittys column in The Courier which gives you a little idea why I feel the way I do. I know you saw it. When I first heard the talk about one league, I thought all the teams in both leagues were to operate as an eastern and western division, now that I have learned some of the teams were to be simply left out in the cold, I can hardly believe it. It doesn't seem possible that human beings could be this ruthless. One good thing, I believe the majority are for the two leagues continuing, or at least all the present franchises operating. One of the big jobs I feel resting on your shoulders is to get Tom to work with you for the good of Negro Baseball, instead of others for their personal good. I believe he will work with you if he sees where it will be for the best. I really feel it would be worth making a trip to Nashville to talk to him. The two of you together could really do things.

I am also enclosing you a clipping from The New York Daily Mirror. It does not seem like much to worry about but I think it is important. Please read it. It says that the world war started when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia and no one thought it was important. If there is anything I can do. I will gladly come to Chicago anytime.

Very Truly Yours